

Men Make Houses; Women Make Homes

Tested Recipes.

The following tested recipes from a valued contributor to the Woman's Page are offered for the helplessness of their suggestion and the information they may convey to other women who desire to make good mince-meat and sweet potato custards with practical directions and exact proportions:

Mince-meat.

One pound lean beef, boiled and minced fine when cold; 3 pounds apples, pared, cored and chopped; 1/2 pound beef suet, freed from strings and minced fine; 1/2 pound citron, cut fine; 1/2 pound raisins, preferably Sultanias, washed, picked clean; 1 pound ordinary raisins, cleaned, seeded and chopped; 1 tablespoon mace; 1 tablespoon cinnamon; 1 teaspoon cloves; 2 teaspoons allspice; 2 teaspoons table salt; 1/2 teaspoon grated nutmeg; 1/2 pound brown sugar (or white); 1/2 pint French brandy; 1 pint sherry; 1/2 pint rum; 1/2 pint currants, very carefully washed and cleaned.

This makes a respectable quantity of mince-meat, but may be doubled for large families. It must be kept in a cool place, covered with oil or put up in earthenware jars.

Let stand for several days after preparing in order to blend the flavors. If it dries out a little before being used, add a little more liquor when making the pie.

Either use a top cover for mince-meat pies, or else cross-bar them with pastry strips.

A. C. STOVER.

223 W. Cary St., city.

Sweet Potato Custard.

One pound sweet potatoes, parboiled and grated when quite cold; 1/2 cup butter; 1/2 cup granulated sugar; 1/2 cup eggs, whites and yolks to be beaten separately; 2 cups of milk; 1 tablespoon of cinnamon; 1 teaspoon nutmeg.

In Mixing: To the creamed butter and sugar add the milk, the spices and the milk; then gradually beat in the potatoes. When nice and light, stir in the stiff whites. Bake in a well-buttered pudding dish and eat cold. This well-tested recipe also makes delicious pies. Line the pie plates with good paste, then bake without cover and serve cold.

A. C. STOVER.

223 W. Cary St., city.

Speed of Pickled Oysters.

Wash one gallon of oysters. Have ready a pot of boiling water, salted. Put them in, and when it begins to boil again, take them off quickly and plunge into cold water twice. Then drain perfectly dry. Boil a large quantity of spice, mace, allspice and cloves, and a small one of salt, in a pint of water. Add spice water to a quart of vinegar. Pour over oysters and tie up.

25 N. Ninth St., Richmond, Va.

Puff Paste for Pies.

Sift thoroughly one quart flour. Rub into it lard size of goose egg and same of good butter; one teaspoon salt; make into a very wet dough with ice water, handling as little as possible. Roll out thin and stick with little pieces of lard all over. Then sift lightly over a little flour. Fold and roll out again, and stick with lard in same manner. Fold and lay on ice for one hour; then roll out.

MRS. WHITTY.

Sliced Sweet Potato Pie. Slice cold sliced sweet potatoes as thick as bread, and lay them in a pie plate that is covered with paste. Put in one tablespoonful vinegar, two tablespoonfuls of sugar. Fill the plate with water and sprinkle bits of butter and a little flour. Season with allspice and bake with an upper crust.

MRS. WHITTY.

Mince-meat.

Two pounds lean beef; 2 pounds currants; 2 pounds apples; 1/2 pound lemon peel; 1/2 pound suet; 1/2 pound citron; 1/2 pound raisins; 2 pounds sugar; 2 ounces nutmegs, grated; 1/2 ounce cloves; 1/2 ounce cinnamon; 1/2 ounce mace; 1/2 ounce allspice; 1/2 ounce salt; 2 lemons, juice and rind; 2 oranges, the juice and rind. Simmer the meat gently till tender, and when perfectly cold chop it fine. Stone raisins, shred citron, pare, core and chop the apples, then the suet fine. Mix the dry ingredients, then add the juice and rinds of oranges and lemons. Pack in stone jar, cover tight and keep cool.

MRS. WHITTY.

Woman's Page: Paris Letter. (Written specially for The Times-Dispatch by Catherine Cary N. P. du Bellay, daughter of Elizabeth Monro and granddaughter of Henry W. Monro and Catherine Ambler.)

Both from its authorship and the interest it contains this letter, the first of a series, will be appreciated and read in Richmond and Virginia. The writer is brought into close touch and relationship by virtue of her leanings toward art and student life, with the student workers in Paris from this city and State and from other sections of the United States. Her letter says:

Paris, December 18, 1908.

8 Rue Troyon (St. Orlais).

The festive season is at hand. Even though the weather is not kind, at home everybody has so many Christmas and New Year's gifts to purchase. As soon as the rain ceases a few minutes children and their nurses invade the boulevards to examine the toys and beautiful exhibitions in all the shops. Here a little man, contemplating a miniature aeroplane flying about. He is lost in ecstasy—And not a word to say, but remains with his eyes and mouth wide open as if rooted to the spot, whilst his sister pulls the nurse farther on to see the babies and their elegant trousseaux and furniture.

Mamas are busy rushing around to catch a glimpse at the novelties, hark work, as every place is filled to overflowing. Choice is easy when the price is not a drawback, but when means are limited the close contact of artistic and expensive trinkets renders the selection doubly difficult. For the majority has more calls upon its generosity than it can afford. There are no end of compulsory "etrennes" such as congeries (jantiers), postmen and heaven only knows what not, all of which considerably diminish the sums allotted to life of love.

My lady's time is taken up not only with purchases for others, but also in ordering her winter outfit for January is the official social month. She must call on two wives of her husband's superiors, if he is in the army or has any function. She must visit her family and elderly friends on all these occasions. Of course madame must look her best. Here again selection is a serious matter. What will last a little?

Sheath Gown on Decline.

The sheath gown is on the decline. Becoming to a very few when standing up, but to none when seated, unbecoming fashions may take Parisians by storm for a short while, but will never regain supreme. It is rumored that the Louis XV. will soon make its appearance—in fact, it has already bowed to society a few days ago at a smart reception. The dress is a gown printed with bunches of roses. The cut was princess, with a double pleat behind, tight at the hips and wide below. It was

open (bodice and skirt) over a white lace front lined with pink satin. At the waist were sewed wide pink ribbons, which crossed and passed through a wide gold buckle, the ends dropping down to the feet.

Too Universal Favorite.

As to hats, the toque is the universal favorite to-day. But to-morrow? Modistes have racked their brains so unmercifully that they seem at a loss to produce a novelty. Yesterday, for the first night of "Jeanne qui rit" at the Theatre Rejane, Mademoiselle Luigi made a stunning entry on the stage wearing an empire cabriole hat, entirely made of small pink roses. It was relieved with an emerald standing feather. Long velvet ribbons tied under the chin fell as low as the knees. The dress was a khaki cloth, very much covered with buttons.

Miss Houston's Paintings.

Our students are working hard. Some have real talent. The only question for these is time and opportunity to improve. Among the interesting sketches of the exhibition held at the "Hostel," I noticed two small landscapes, by Miss Elizabeth Houston, of Richmond, a most charming girl, of whom we have good reasons to boast in every respect. When she returns home her friends will be glad to realize that she has not lost her time in Paris.

C. C. NOEMIE P. DU BELLET.

Juvenile Music Club.

A bright girl heard her married sister and another young matron complain of the bashfulness of their children when called on to play the piano for strangers. She promptly procured from her niece a list of their little friends who were studying music, and the next afternoon made a round of calls upon their mothers.

Thus the children's music club came into existence, with a membership of ten, and dues of 25 cents a week. It met every Saturday, with the young woman as hostess. Each child, on entering the drawing room, drew a number from a bag, and when all had arrived the hostess began by calling for No. 1. Thereupon the child holding it seated herself at the piano and rendered her contribution to the afternoon's entertainment. The other numbers were called in order, and when the musical program ended a social half hour followed, and simple refreshments were served.

Parents and their friends were invited, so no meeting was without two or three adults, and the audience was constantly varied. It was wonderful how soon the training of the club became apparent in its members. Children who had at first hung back, and needed coaxing to play, now walked to the piano as a matter of course. Those who at first played nervously and hastily gained poise and self-confidence.

Before long the club attained a membership of twenty-two. Then only half the children played on one afternoon. The club was not only successful in its social and ornamental side, but stimulated the children's interest in their music, and robbed the daily practicing hour of its tedium. The fees accrued to its originator.

Gillette's Gingham Frocks.

For the southern trip the wise mother will provide a generous supply of gingham frocks for her girls. And such an array of lovely designs as she will find spread before her for selection. You might think that after all these years even the most ingenious designer would run out of appropriate and novel ideas, but the fund is apparently inexhaustible. For eighty-seven years the David and John Anderson gingham have been the staple fabrics for summer frocks, and this summer they promise to enjoy a renewal of the highest favor. And, after all, is there any daintier morning gown than a clean, fresh, crisp gingham? No matter how often this dress may pay a visit to the laundress, it is always as bright and new in appearance as when it was bought. All of which makes it an ideal material for kiddies' dresses. The majority of these gingham dresses are made with the white muslin gimp which have been found most practical after all for the gimp may be changed without sending the whole dress to the laundry.

The vivid plaids, particularly on the



FETCHING COSTUMES TO INCLUDE IN THE SOUTHERN WARDROBE.

BRIDGE GOWN BY JEANNE HALLE.

Black satin frock suit, draped skirt caught by large crease of the material. The bodice is of gold and sage green iridescent trimmings and embroidery, with black satin straps over the shoulders. Yoke and sleeves of black chiffon. Emplacement of fine Venetian lace.

More elaborate bordered patterns will be chosen by the grown-ups, but there are deliciously quaint and old-time effects which will be most appropriate for the younger generation. A hairline stripe has an exquisite floral border washed in with as much skill as if with the actual brush of an artist. The subdued colorings, the faint yellows, blues and pinks, are a keen delight. Floral stripes, as the long panel effects of flowers might be termed, on a white background, would be decidedly modish and effective on the girl who is looking forward to her sixteenth summer.

There is so much of decorative value in these fascinating effects that very little extra trimming is desirable, and yet they carry out the long lines on which the simplicity of the late winter and early spring models are being built. White is the usual foundation over which the fabric is draped, but the color note of the design may be accentuated in the lining with quite as satisfactory results.

BALL GOWN OF AGNES.

White net paillette over ivory liberty satin. The skirt is draped and held by cameo ornaments. The bodice is of ivory satin embroidered with flowers of net outlined with sequins. The fringe finishing the cap sleeves and on bodice is of silver beads and pendant ball ends.

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TROTTEUR COSTUME OF JEANNE HALLE.

Anchovy rough serge, with invisible stripe. The lapels are of satin the same shade. The bands crossing the front are of tapestry in blues, mauves and hellebore. Large buttons of satin with eyelets inserted with velvet are used as trimming.

shell wing, sometimes plain and sometimes studded with tiny rhinestones. Bandeaux are the height of fashion. They may be worn as a coronet or at the back holding up the psyche knot. Some of the prettiest, to be worn in dark hair, are of amber showing a silver gilt design in a Greek key pattern.

Unique Arrangement.

This is the name taken by ten women who have made a unique arrangement for mutual improvement during the winter. The members of The Decimo are numbered, and on a certain day of the first week of club work No. 1 sends on a postal card a list of ten words to each of the other members. These words are either new words to her, found in reading, or words com-

monly misspelled or mispronounced. There are all studied as to meaning, derivation, pronunciation, spelling and use. The next week No. 2 sends out a list, and so on until fifty words have been mastered. Then the words are pronounced for them to spell, either orally or in writing, and various ways are devised by the hostess to test the ability of the members to use the words in sentences, and giving concise definitions. A great deal of profit is obtained in this way, with little expenditure of time and study, meeting, as they do, only once in five weeks.

Each one of these ladies is sure of nine friends who will bring her to account if they hear her mispronounce or use a word incorrectly, which they consider a strange way than passing it by at the time and telling later to some one else.

The original ten are firm in the determination not to receive more members, but they are kindly showing their list to their respective families and friends, and so giving many times ten a good course in word study.

Here are a few of their words:

Bouillon, paraffine, enervate, callipeds, lacustrine, chic, proletarian, ensemble, cuisine, memoir, echerone, alias, coadjutor, clique, onyx, bizarre, acclimate, palmistry, vignette, turquoise, precedence, precedent, intercalate, address (noun), sacrilegious, maintenance, countess, neony, wistaria, ginkgo, ment, baccinate, scenario, clemency, schism, inquiry, envelope, program, depot, either, vase.—Woman's Home Companion.

Revival in Jet Jewelry.

There is a decided revival this year of jet jewelry, and the clever woman often uses it for the necessary black touch to her costume. There are glistening cut-jet collars, which look wonderfully lovely against a white throat. There are jet bracelets and jet neck chains, bandeaux and hairpins of jet and French jet hairpins in all sorts of shapes. The hairpin in the form of a spike is particularly good style, whether it is made of jet, cut silver, or amber studded with rhinestones.

In Paris they are wearing hatpins with tassels—large colored stones set in gilt rims and ornamented with two little long gilt tassels. It is possible nowadays to have a hatpin exactly matching the hat in color, so great is the variety of colored stones. Artistic but delightfully inexpensive hatpins show a fancy ball effect of gunmetal with a yellow stone for its top.

Very high dog collars are much worn. Something novel is the dog collar consisting of strands of pearls barred here and there with pink corals. Fascinating dog collars are also made of bands of black velvet on which rhinestones or colored stones are mounted in artistic style.

Very fine gold chains are worn, from which is suspended a large pendant; or from the chain many small pendants hang. One especially pretty chain of this sort has small pink coral roses dangling from it, with a large pink rose as the centre pendant.

Bunches of grapes are among the favorite designs for brooches. A French brooch, costing only \$1, shows a bunch of pearl grapes with leaves in a gilt tracery.

Popular Designs.

Mercury wings, horseshoes, bow knots and swallows are among the popular designs for brooches. It is quite a fad nowadays to have your earrings, necklace and brooch match in color, so if you happen to be wearing pink coral earrings you want to be sure to have a horseshoe pin of pink corals to match, and to wear either a little fine gold neck chain with coral drops or a black satin directoire tie having the ends embroidered in coral beads or finished with a coral tassel.

Sets of collar pins are more in demand than ever. Three of them can be bought in a good-looking case for \$1.50, and they make a most acceptable little gift. Those in the form of mercury wings, studded with rhinestones and having a small pearl in the centre are most attractive. Bar collar pins of cut silver are also pretty and glistening. Veil pins in the form of a swallow are very fascinating. They come in pretty shades of light blue, and also in the many-colored Russian enamel.

How to Braid.

Don't hurry and do think. If you do not use your brain you will not be able to braid successfully. Keep your mind on your pattern and on its careful development.

Remember that it is, to some extent, a work of art; anything well designed and thoroughly executed by hand is a work of art.

In braiding, sew in the kitchen as that the needle sticks back into almost the same thread of the braid from which it has been pulled, almost concealing the sewing; sew closely, so the braid does not "wobble." Use your mind at every turn of the braid, always remembering to make sharp corners if they arise, and never forgetting to keep the shape of the long curves, and, above all, not losing sight of the spirit of the pattern. In selecting the braid have a thought as to its pliability, and don't take a match that doesn't match.

Antidote for Discontent.

Home-owning is a wonderful antidote for discontent and discouragement. A disheartened woman had worn herself nearly into nervous prostration, stretching an income of \$35 a month to feed and clothe and house her husband, herself and their child. A severe and inevitable rainy day she had saved \$50. This she took to a contractor who she had heard was inclined to be generous with his customers. She looked at him through a mist of tears. "It's all I have, but I simply have to get a home with it. We're paying \$30 a month rent. Will you take this \$50 and \$10 a month payments for a home, any sort of a home, so we get something new to work for? I really can't work for a landlord any longer."

The story of how the contractor took the \$50 with a hand that was none too firm; of how the man and woman moved their household goods from their curt overland; how the wife set her table from her own garden; how the husband fixed up the somewhat dilapidated place, which had come back on the contractor's hands, and which was the only cottage he had at the price they could pay on time, makes too long a story to be told here. But the man took heart from his wife's courage and won promotion and better wages, and the woman gained health from hope. To-day you could not buy their place for \$1,500.

HANDS CRACKED RAW AND SCALY

Itched and Burned Terribly—Arms Affected, Too—Could Not Move Thumbs Without Flesh Cracking—Sleep and Work Often Impossible—Was Fairly Worn Out.

CUTICURA SOON CURED HIS FEARFUL ECZEMA

"About a year ago an itching humor began to appear around the back of my hand. It started to spread, and pretty soon it covered both my hands and got up over my wrists and even up to the elbows. The itching was burning and terrible. My hands got all scaly and when I scratched, as I was doing a good part of the time, the surface would be covered with blisters and then get raw. I thought I was so bad in around the pit of my thumbs that I could not move the thumbs without deep cracks appearing. I went to my doctor, but he medicine could only stop the itching and did not seem to heal my hands up at all. At night I suffered so fearfully that I could not sleep, often lying awake toward morning, then waking up still tired. I am a chef and steward by trade and I had to give up my place, as my hands were so terrible to look at that they did not like to have me around about the food. I could not bear to touch them with water, but when I positively had to get my hands clean I would rub them with kerosene."

"This sort of business went on for three months and I kept trying zinc and tar ointments and such remedies with no particular benefit. I did not know what to do, for I was fairly worn out. For a long time several friends kept asking me why I didn't use Cuticura and at last I thought I would. First I got the Cuticura Soap, then Cuticura Ointment and at last Cuticura Resolvent. I put the Cuticura Ointment on at night, covering my hands with light cotton gloves. In the morning the inside of the gloves would be lined with scales, sometimes half as long as your finger, leaving nice healed places where the scales had been. In a month I was cured and have kept so now for nine months. My hands and arms are perfectly clear of all traces of eczema and I think I am well rid of it. Walter H. Fox, 18 Somerset St., Boston, Mass. Sept. 25, 1908."

Cuticura Remedies are sold throughout the world. Foster Drug Co., Chicago, Ill., Sole U. S. Mfrs. Avoid Free Cuticura Book on Skin Diseases.

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